



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jan 26, 2026)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chicago

298 S. Harrison Avenue, Kankakee, IL 60901, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge |

amysen@episcopalchicago.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 50	Number of Weekend Worship Services 1	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend \$56304	Housing / Rectory Detail \$17971	Utilities \$3600
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position \$77875	Housing Available for 6	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Full family	Dental Yes	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks 2 (standard)	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget \$501-\$1000/year	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account No

SECA included in cash stipend; Housing listed at CPG valuation. FMRV \$33,600

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chicago

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge |

Contact:
amysen@episcopalchicago.org

Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Through teamwork and shared commitment, we've kept our doors open and our community thriving. Each week, we are blessed with uplifting and inspirational guidance from our supply priests, whose presence nourishes our spiritual growth. Parishioners continue to step up in remarkable ways—volunteering their time and talents to ensure our Sunday services run smoothly and our church remains welcoming and well cared for. Together, we've created a space where the Gospel of the Lord is not only heard but deeply felt. As we prepare to welcome our new leader, we look forward with hope and excitement, ready to continue God's work as one united body.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

Our unwavering faith in God continues to guide and strengthen us as we prepare for the future. Though smaller in number, we are rich in spirit, purpose, and determination. Our church has faced challenges with grace and perseverance, never losing sight of our calling—and we remain steadfast in our commitment to grow, serve, and thrive. We embrace each day as an opportunity to deepen our mission: to grow in Christ by sharing His love, reaching out to others, and making God's presence known in our community. We are especially excited about nurturing the next generation, equipping our youth to grow in faith and become active participants in the life of the church. Looking ahead, we envision expanding Bible-based educational opportunities for all ages and we are confident that we can build a vibrant learning environment that reflects our values and welcomes all seekers. We also recognize the importance of evolving how we communicate and worship together, and we are eager to explore new, creative ways to connect and celebrate our faith. The past five years have brought remarkable growth and renewed enthusiasm, and we are ready to meet the future with courage, joy, and faith.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Teacher and Educator; Visionary to build and change; Flexibility in two cultures; Spiritual leader and Administrator

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chicago

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge |

Contact:
amysen@episcopalchicago.org

How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Members of the congregation actively support a local food ministry through both service and governance. Several volunteers from St. Paul's contribute monthly by assembling weekly food packages for distribution. Previously, St. Paul's also partnered with the Blessings in a Backpack program, which provided weekend meals to approximately 350 low-income students from nearby schools. Currently, we are developing a program to offer English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, open to anyone in the community who wishes to learn.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

St. Paul's has long been committed to serving beyond our immediate community. As founding members of the River Valley Clergy Alliance, we helped create a network of emotional and spiritual support for clergy throughout Kankakee County. We previously worked with "Connect Kankakee," a local immigrant rights organization that hosts public gatherings to share vital information with and about undocumented immigrants. We continue to provide education and share information to our immigrant population. Our musical ministry also reaches far and wide—several choir members have performed with both the local symphony choir and a regional ensemble in Chicago's south suburbs. St. Paul's has contributed to services benefiting Blessings in a Backpack, helping provide food for children in need. We currently partner with ACOM, Inc., a community outreach mission dedicated to supporting individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness. Through donations of food and financial resources, we help empower their journey toward self-sustainability. Our youth are engaged in the Heifer Project, an ongoing initiative that teaches farming and self-reliance.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

In the past, our main ministry focused on outreach to the neighborhood Hispanic community. This included: home visits, the annual Children's Christmas program and Sunday School for children. The parish hall is available for quinceaneras, baptism parties, etc. The Church is a social hub for both religious and non-religious celebrations for our members. Contact Senior Warden, Bruce Cowhig. Connect Kankakee was initiated to teach immigrants their rights. Several Vestry members are attending meetings to obtain the proper information to educate those who need to know their rights. We have become more involved in volunteering and working with the local food pantry.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chicago

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge |

Contact:
amysen@episcopalchicago.org

Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Our worship follows Rite II in the Book of Common Prayer. Currently, we offer one bilingual service at 9:30 a.m., where both Spanish and English are woven throughout the liturgy. This service features our choir and pipe organ, filling the sanctuary with hymns sung in both languages. We provide *Flor y Canto* Spanish hymnals and bilingual order-of-service booklets, with English and Spanish on facing pages to support full participation. We hope to return to a two-service Sunday schedule: • 8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist (English only) A quiet, traditional service without music. • 10:15 a.m. Bilingual Eucharist with Choir and Music This service would replace the current 9:30 a.m. offering, and continue our vibrant bilingual worship tradition. We also plan to continue and expand our Sunday school, which would take place during the 10:15 a.m. service, offering faith formation for children and youth while families worship.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our parish has a rich tradition of encouraging active participation in worship and community life. In the past, we've trained children and youth to serve as acolytes, fostering early involvement in liturgical roles. Each Sunday, we've welcomed parishioners with two greeters/ushers—one English-speaking and one Spanish-speaking—to ensure hospitality across language communities. We've also trained and commissioned lay Eucharistic ministers who rotate in serving during weekly services. Looking ahead, we hope to deepen engagement with our Latino community by encouraging participation on the Vestry, inviting individuals to serve as lectors and translators, and expanding their presence in worship leadership. Fellowship remains a cornerstone of our parish life. Members take turns hosting coffee hour each Sunday, sharing light refreshments and meaningful connection after services. We are also committed to incorporating youth into both our weekly services and outreach efforts, nurturing their growth and leadership in faith and service.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Several Lay Eucharistic Ministers offer visits to our sick and shut-in parishioners, offering companionship and bringing Holy Communion. While these visits are deeply appreciated, many of our shut-ins are accustomed to seeing the priest as well. We hope to resume clergy visits in the near future, recognizing the unique value of both lay and pastoral presence in nurturing spiritual connection. During Sunday services, we recognize special prayer and intercessions during the Prayers of the People, and invite the congregation to lift up special prayers and intentions aloud. Parishioners are encouraged to share their own petitions during this time, creating a space of collective care and intercession. Our fellowship hours—previously mentioned—are a vital part of parish life. They offer us the opportunity to move from acquaintanceship to genuine friendship, as we share stories, offer support, and welcome guests and visitors into our community.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chicago

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge |

Contact:
amysen@episcopalchicago.org

What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Each year, we distribute pledge cards to our parish members, accompanied by a letter that highlights the importance of giving. These pledges, along with other contributions, form the foundation of our parish's financial health. However, in recent years, our regular giving has not fully covered our operating expenses. As a result, we've had to draw from our church's investment funds to meet essential needs. While our community has always responded generously to unexpected needs, we are seeking a more consistent and sustainable pattern of giving. To foster this, we believe it is vital to deepen our collective understanding of stewardship—not just as a financial obligation, but as a spiritual practice rooted in thanksgiving. We envision a rector who can guide us in cultivating a year-round culture of generosity, helping us embrace stewardship as a holistic expression of gratitude through the faithful use of our time, talent, and treasure.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

We have experienced growing pains as we've stepped beyond our comfort zone to embrace a more inclusive vision of worship. Under the leadership of our previous rector, we began actively incorporating Latino traditions and welcoming members from the surrounding multi-racial neighborhoods. This shift, while enriching, brought some conflict. Not all parishioners shared this vision, and some chose to leave. Yet through perseverance and outreach, our community grew stronger and more diverse. Additional tensions arose when the traditional 8 a.m. English-language service was discontinued. For some, this change felt like a loss of familiar spiritual grounding. Others struggled with the blending of political themes into Gospel preaching, which sparked ongoing dialogue about the role of faith in public life. Despite these challenges, we are committed to fostering unity and understanding. We continue to educate ourselves on the importance of multiculturalism and strive to be a welcoming space for all. We hope our next rector will help open new pathways for worship—honoring tradition while bridging cultural divides—so that everyone may feel invited to worship God in spirit and truth.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

When a former rector began reaching out to the local community, he partnered with a retired educator from the Kankakee school system to help canvas the neighborhood. At the time, the area was predominantly African American, though it has since grown into a vibrant mix of African American and Hispanic residents. As we welcomed African American families, we discovered that many expected transportation for their children to attend Sunday School, but were not interested in participating in worship services themselves. We learned that meaningful outreach requires identifying and engaging those who view church as a vital part of their lives. To better serve our Hispanic neighbors, we initially offered a separate Spanish-language service twice a month. This evolved into a weekly bilingual service, reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and shared worship. The elimination of the traditional 8 a.m. English service led to some tension. With only one bilingual service offered on Sundays, many parishioners felt their spiritual needs were not being met. While we remain committed to unity, we've come to recognize the importance of offering multiple worship options.



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Jan 26, 2026)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chicago

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

Contact:
amysen@episcopalchicago.org

Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Shane Spellmeyer	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2021-07	2024-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Israel Anchan	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2009-01	2019-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Frank Warthan	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1999-01	2009-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	2	10

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
1	13		

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chicago

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge |

Contact:
amysen@episcopalchicago.orgWorshipping Community Web site: episcopalkankakee.org

Media Links:

Online References:
[facebook page](#)Languages Significantly Represented:
English, SpanishProvide Worship or Classes in:
Spanish

References

Bishop:

bishop@episcopalchicago.org; 312-751-4200The Right Rev. Paula E.
ClarkDiocesan Transition Minister
The Rev. Canon Andrea
Mysenamysen@episcopalchicago.org; 312-751-4203Current Warden/Board Chair
Bruce Cowhigblcowhig@att.netPrevious Warden/Board Chair
Vicki Senesacvsenesac32@gmail.com

Search Chair

Cindy Martin and Vicki
Senesaccindy.martin1150@gmail.com; vsenesac32@gmail.com

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader
Mike O'Brien

815-937-2404